

# **Climate Change and the American Mind**

Opinion survey by Yale and George  
Mason University  
8/31/12-9/12/12

# Climate Change and the American Mind Opinion Survey

- By Yale Project on Climate Change Communication and George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication
- Representative nationwide survey
- **Conducted *before* Sandy**
- Researchers wrote several reports analyzing results
- <http://environment.yale.edu/climate/>

# **Climate Change and the American Mind**

Tonight, one of these reports:

**“Public Support for Climate and Energy Policies in September 2012.”**

# Public Support for Climate and Energy Policies in September 2012

Our focus: **areas of substantial *agreement*** indicated by super-majorities

# Developing Clean Energy

- **69%** said the President and Congress should make **developing sources of clean energy** a high or very high priority.
- An additional **23%** said it should be a moderate priority.
- **8%** a low priority

Replace with graph

# Reducing GHG Emissions Regardless

- **61%** said the US should reduce its greenhouse gas emissions regardless of what other countries do.
- **15%** disagreeing
- **25%** no opinion

Replace with graph

# Doing More to Address Climate Change

- **71%** said corporations and industry should be doing more to reduce GHG emissions
- **66%** said citizens should be doing more
- **60%** said Congress should be doing more
- **53%** said the President should be doing more

Replace with graph

# **Growing Majorities**

Growing Majorities of Americans Say  
Corporations, Industry, and Congress Should Do  
More to Address Global Warming

Replace with graph



# Similar Results in Other Major Recent Polls

## December 2012 AP-GfK Poll:

**57%** of Americans think the U.S. government should do a great deal or quite a bit about Global Warming. Only **22%** think little or nothing should be done.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ap-gfk-poll-science-doubters-say-world-warming>

# Similar Results in Other Major Recent Polls

## February 2013 Field Poll:

- **64%** of California voters believe “there is sufficient evidence of Global Warming that actions need to be taken to combat it.”
- In the San Francisco Bay Area, **77%**

<http://field.com/fieldpollonline/subscribers/RIs2440.pdf>

# Support for Action

- Concern about Climate Change
- Desire that a variety of entities take action
- Support for US action regardless of what other countries do
- Strong support for clean energy

# Resources

- **Yale/George Mason Reports:**  
<http://environment.yale.edu/climate/>
- **AP-GfK Poll, December 2012**  
<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/ap-gfk-poll-science-doubters-say-world-warming>
- **Field Poll, Feb. 2013:**  
<http://field.com/fieldpollonline/subscribers/RIs2440.pdf>